

**Claim Amendments**  
Including a complete listing of all claims

1. (Currently Amended) A vegetable retainer employed for a vegetable ~~cooking~~ cutting utensil which is provided with a ~~cooking~~ cutting blade on an approximately central portion in a longitudinal direction of a vegetable ~~cooking~~ cutting utensil main body of a roughly rectangle in a plan view, said vegetable retainer comprising an approximately flat plate-like retainer main body portion whose central portion underside is recessed to form a recess, a vegetable retaining portion which protrudes from the recess and which is constructed of a plurality of comb teeth bodies for being stuck into a vegetable ~~and the like~~ to retain the vegetable ~~and the like~~, sliding portions which extend vertically on both side portions of the retainer main body portion and which are guided by both side portions of the vegetable cooking utensil main body to slide, and a holding portion which extends upwardly from an upper surface of the retainer main body portion and by which a cooking person holds the vegetable retainer, and wherein the holding portion has a height above the upper surface of the retainer main body portion sufficient to prevent fingers of a cooking person from coming off of the vegetable retainer during use of the vegetable cutting

utensil, whereby the fingers of the cooking person are reliably held preventing injury.

2. (Currently Amended) The vegetable retainer for a vegetable ~~cooking~~ cutting utensil as set forth in claim 1, wherein the holding portion comprises a rising portion which extends upwardly near both side portions of the retainer main body portion while extending in a sliding direction and which is formed to have a predetermined height so that the rising portion can be held by a finger of a cooking person and a rising portion which extends upwardly near front and rear ends of the retainer main body portion while respectively extending in a direction along the front and rear ends and which is provided with a notch which is notched at a predetermined size for drainage.

3. (Currently Amended) The vegetable retainer for a vegetable ~~cooking~~ cutting utensil as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein ~~the a drainage notch is formed at respective two positions on the rising portion near front and rear ends in the~~ holding portion.

4. (New) The vegetable retainer for a vegetable cutting utensil as set forth in claim 2 wherein the notch is formed at

respective two positions on the rising portion near front and rear ends.

5. (New) A vegetable retainer for use with a vegetable cutting utensil comprising:

a main body portion having a top and bottom surface;

a recess formed in the bottom surface of said main body portion;

teeth formed in said recess, whereby a vegetable retaining portion is formed;

a pair of opposing lateral side raising portions formed on the top surface of said main body portion; and

a pair of opposing longitudinal side raising portions formed on the top surface of said main body portion, each of said pair of opposing longitudinal side raising portions having opposing ends and a center, the center having a height extending from the top surface greater than the opposing ends,

whereby fingers of a person are held reliably.

6. (New) A vegetable retainer for use with a vegetable cutting utensil as in claim 5 wherein:

said pair of opposing lateral side raising portions and said pair of opposing longitudinal side raising portions are curved.

7. (New) A vegetable retainer for use with a vegetable cutting utensil as in claim 5 wherein:

notches are formed adjacent the opposing ends of each of said pair of opposing longitudinal side raising portions,

whereby the top surface of said main body portion is capable of being drained through said notches.

8. (New) A vegetable retainer for use with a vegetable cutting utensil used to cut or slice vegetables comprising:

a main body portion having a top and bottom surface;

a recess formed in the bottom surface of said main body portion;

teeth formed in said recess, whereby a vegetable retaining portion is formed;

a pair of opposing curved lateral side raising portions formed on the top surface of said main body portion;

a pair of opposing curved longitudinal side raising portions formed on the top surface of said main body portion, each of said pair of opposing curved longitudinal side raising portions having opposing ends and a center, the center having a height extending from the top surface greater than the opposing ends; and

drainage notches formed adjacent the opposing ends of each of said pair of opposing curved longitudinal side raising portions,

whereby fingers of a person are held reliably on the vegetable retainer preventing injury from contact with a blade of the vegetable cutting utensil.